

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 PPT-01 H-01 L-03 PA-01
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 /053 W
-----045071 151447Z /66
P 151350Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7213

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2292

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PINT, GY (HOPKINSON, GEORGE)
SUBJECT: GUYANESE AUTHORITIES REFUSE TO PERMIT AMERICAN CITIZEN
TO LEAVE COUNTRY

1. MR. GEORGE HOPKINSON, HOLDER OF AN AMERICAN PASSPORT, CALLED AT CONSULATE AT COB FRIDAY, JULY 14, TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT 227 AS IT WAS ABOUT TO DEPART GEORGETOWN'S TOWERHILL AIRPORT FOR PORT OF SPAIN AND NEW YORK. MR. HOPKINSON SAID THAT HIS BAGGAGE HAD BEEN SEARCHED, AND THAT PHOTOGRAPHS OF INCIDENTS AT GUYANA'S JULY 10 NATIONAL REFERENDUM AND HIS NOTES PERTAINING TO THE INCIDENTS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM HIS LUGGAGE. MR. HOPKINSON WAS TOLD THAT HE COULD NOT LEAVE THE COUNTRY. HIS LUGGAGE WAS RETURNED TO HIM MINUS THE ABOVE ITEMS, AND HE SUFFERED NO OTHER HARRASSMENT. MR. HOPKINSON WAS TOLD BY IMMIGRATION OFFICERS THAT IT WAS BELIEVED HE WAS IN DEBT TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS DATING FROM SOME YEARS BACK. MR. HOPKINSON THEN RETURNED TO GEORGETOWN AND REPORTED THE INCIDENT TO THE CONSULATE. MR. HOPKINSON'S PASSPORT INDICATES THAT HE WAS BORN IN GUYANA.

2. ACTING CHIEF OF THE CONSULAR SECTION TELEPHONED THE GUYANESE ACTING CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER TO ASCERTAIN THE REASONS WHY MR. HOPKINSON HAD BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.
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THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER STATED THAT THERE WAS A QUESTION OF WHETHER MR. HOPKINSON OWED THE GOVERNMENT FUNDS FOR HIS SCHOOLING, ADDING THAT AS FAR AS GUYANESE AUTHORITIES WERE CONCERNED MR. HOPKINSON IS STILL A GUYANESE CITIZEN. HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE CASE FURTHER.

3. AT A SOCIAL OCCASION THE EVENING OF JULY 10 THE CHARGE

OBSERVED TO THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRY AND THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE FOLLOWING THE MATTER CLOSELY.

4. MR. HOPKINSON DENIED TO THE CONSULAR OFFICER THAT HE WAS INDEBTED TO GUYANESE GOVERNMENT. HE HOPED TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM OVER THE WEEK-END AND TO CONSULT WITH THE CONSULAR SECTION THEREAFTER. MR. HOPKINSON SAID HE IS A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER. HE HAS SPOKEN TO HIS FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES BY TELEPHONE.

5. THE CONSULATE WILL SEEK TO ASSIST MR. HOPKINSON IN CLARIFICATION OF WHAT, IF ANY, CHARGES ARE BEING BROUGHT AGAINST HIM BY THE GUYANESE AUTHORITIES.

6. COMMENT: MR. HOPKINSON APPEARS TO BE THE SAME GEORGE HOPKINSON, ALSO KNOWN AS "ODINGA" AND/OR "LUMUMBA," WHO ATTENDED A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 11 ORGANIZED BY THE COMMITTEE IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY, AN ORGANIZATION INCLUDING THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY, THE PEOPLES' PROGRESSIVE PARTY,, AND OTHER OPPONENTS TO THE RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL CONGRESS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DENOUNCING THE JULY 10 REFERENDUM. THIS MR. HOPKINSON DISTRIBUTED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE A MEMORANDUM TO "ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES" IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS "PRESIDENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONALS UNITED MOVEMENT," WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN TURN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE OPPOSITION PRESS AS A UNITED STATES BASED MOVEMENT. INTER ALIA, THE MEMORANDUM CALLS FOR CONDEMNATION OF THE "UNPRINCIPLED GUYANA GOVERNMENT" BY THE UNITED NATIONS, THE RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO BE FOLLOWED BY "FREE SOCIALIST ELECTIONS", A MASS DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, AND "PREPARATION OF THE GUYANESE PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH ARMED STRUGGLE SINCE THE BALLOT IS USELESS." THE MEMORANDUM CONCLUDES WITH THE IMPRECATION "CUBA AND RUSSIA RAISE YOUR VOICE*"

6. IN VIEW OF HIS APPARENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY, IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING MORE SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST MR. HOPKINSON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GEORGE02292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-1272
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780757/aaaabvrl.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: add50773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1998015
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANESE AUTHORITIES REFUSE TO PERMIT AMERICAN CITIZEN TO LEAVE COUNTRY
TAGS: CASC, PINT, PINS, GY, (HOPKINSON, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/add50773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014